

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4068

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1651

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5086

E. O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: MEETING OF CHILEAN POLITICAL EXILES IN VENEZUELA

1. SUMMARY: RECENT MEETING IN VENEZUELA OF LEFTWING CHRISTIAN DEMONCRATIC (PDC) LEADERS WITH RELATIVELY MODERATE LEADERS OF FORMER UP COALITION EMBARRASSES PDC IN CHILE. PDC LEADERSHIP IS INTERESTED IN CONTACTS WITH DEMOCRATIC FORCES TO ITS RIGHT AND LEFT BUT REJECTS JOINT ACTION WITH UP PARTIES AGAINST JUNTA. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS GAVE FAIR AMOUNT OF SPACE TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF MEETING NEAR CARACAS TWO WEEKS AGO OF SEVERAL EXILED CHILEAN POLITICIANS, MOSTLY FROM FORMER POPULAR UNITY (UP) PARTIES OF ALLENDE COALITION: RADICALS (PR) ANSELMO SULE, CARLOS MORALES AND HOGO MIRANDA; SOCIALISTS (PS) CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA, ANICETO RODRIGUEZ AND CARMEN LAZO; CHRISTIAN LEFTISTS (IC) RAFAEL AGUSTIN GUMUCIO AND SERGIO BITAR; AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) BERNARDO LEIGHTON AND RENAN FUENTEALBA.

3. IN LETTER PUBLISHED IN JULY 21 " LA TERCERA," FORMER PDC SENATOR JUAN DE DIOS CARMONA DENOUNCED MEETING AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED "TWO PERSONS....WHO PARTICIPATED ON PERSONAL BASIS." CARMONA REJECTED MEETING'S CONCLUSIONS SUPPORTING BROAD FRONT AIMED AT OVERTHROWING CHILEAN JUNTA, AND CREATION OF
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"SOCIALIST, DEMOCRATIC AND PLURALISTIC" ALTERNATIVE.

4. COMMENT: LEIGHTON AND FUENTEALBA ARE OF PDC LEFTWING, AND CARMONA FROM THE RIGHT. BEFORE EXPULSION OF FUENTEALBA FROM CHILE LAST NOVEMBER, CARMONA HAD FAVORED A DEGREE OF PDC COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT.

5. MODERATE POLICY SUPPORTED BY LARGE MAJORITY OF PDC LEADERS PROVIDES FOR SOME PARTY CONTACT WITH CONSERVATIVES ON THE RIGHT AND WITH DEMOCRATIC PORTIONS OF UP (NOT COMMUNISTS, EXTREMIST MIR, OR HARD-LINE ALTAMIRANO SOCIALISTS), BUT PRESENCE OF PDC MEMBERS AT SUCH A MEETING IS A SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT TO MAINSTREAM LEADERS. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PARTY CANNOT MAKE ADEQUATELY CLEAR ITS REPUDIATION OF AN ALLIANCE WITH UP, OR THAT PDC PARTICIPANTS SPOKE ONLY FOR THEMSELVES. CARMONA'S LETTER WAS NOT ADEQUATE, SINCE IT WAS PERSONAL AND DID NOT ENTIRELY REPRESENT PARTY'S POSITION.

5. PDC REPORTEDLY HAS DECIDED AGAINST EXPELLING LEIGHTON AND FUENTEALBA, BUT GOC MAY TAKE SOME ACTION: WRITING UNDER PSEUDONYM IN SENSATIONALIST "LA SEGUNDA" JULY 21, POLITICAL ADVISER TO PRESIDENT, ALVARO PUGA, SUGGESTED THAT THEY BE DEPRIVED OF CHILEAN NATIONALITY AS TRAITORS (ACTION GOC TOOK AGAINST SULE EARLIER IN MONTH).
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